

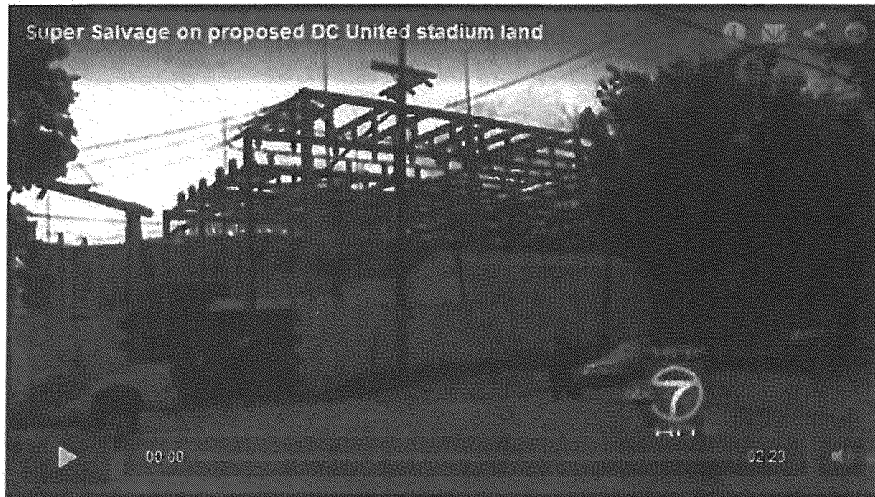
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D.C. United stadium: Super Salvage never contacted, WAMU reports | WJLA.com

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August 17, 2013 - 10:38 am



WASHINGTON (AP/ABC7) - D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray says that the District of Columbia could use eminent domain to claim the land needed to build a new stadium for D.C. United in Southwest.

Gray's announcement, which he made during his biweekly news conference and tweeted by WTOP's Andrew Mollenbeck, comes in the wake of a WAMU report that could present a snag in the plan to build the new soccer stadium at Buzzard Point.

Radio station WAMU-FM reports that officials apparently never reached out to discuss relocating a salvage yard that currently sits in the middle of the planned field.

Super Salvage has been processing scrap metal here in southwest for decades.

"The city's not approach this business directly but the city has been in touch with somebody," says Bob Bullock, vice president of Super Salvage.

And July 25th, when the city held the big party next door involving all the other land owners, including Pepco, Akridge development, Super Salvage wasn't invited.

"It's just that they had a meeting next door and didn't invite us," Bullock says.

The stadium deal which would give a new home to D.C. United hinges on a series of land swaps, but for the deal to work, officials need the land that Super Salvage sits on.

Super Salvage hasn't ruled out working with the city or moving, but there aren't very many places left in the city to relocate. The employee-owned company has been in business for decades and is valued at \$7.5 million.

Officials told the radio station that they plan on contacting Super Salvage soon.

At the mayor's news conference Wednesday, the city administrator said he focused on the big land owners: Pepco owns 45 percent of the space while Akridge owns 25 percent.

The salvage yard only owns about 10 percent.

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Officials announced July 25 a \$300-million public-private partnership to build a 20,000 seat stadium for the MLS charter franchise down the road from Nationals Park.

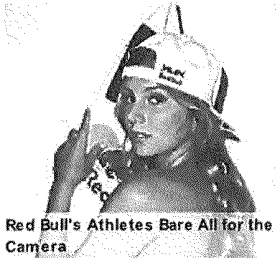
The city is relying on a series of land swaps to clear the land for D.C. United to build the stadium, which officials hope to have complete by 2016. The club has played at RFK Stadium since 1996.

Super Salvage employees like Elizabeth young are taking it in stride, hoping they'll find somewhere for the business.

"We've been for 60 years," she says. "We would dearly love to stay here, but soccer is a very popular sport in this country now and the town is growing."

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